

YMCA LIBRARIES ON THE MEXICAN BORDER, 1916

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The YMCA developed a library program for the troops on the Mexican border in 1916. The association based its program, in part, on the experience it had gained from providing libraries to the military since the Civil War. It also utilized the expertise of librarians from The New York Public Library. The libraries were not mere collections of tracts and other religious material. The collections were relevant to the region's history, culture, and environment, as well as works for the troops' education and entertainment. The American Library Association not only used this program as a model for its own library program in World War I, but also enlisted the services of the same librarians.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in the United States has played an important role in providing library services to American military personnel. Despite this, parts of the story have not been explored to any great extent in the literature. One of these efforts by the YMCA along the Mexican border in 1916 influenced library services to U.S. military personnel beginning one year later.¹ In 1916 the YMCA, with the help of library professionals and philanthropists, provided library services to U.S. troops. These troops had been sent to the Mexican border to protect American civilians and stop illegal arms traffic into Mexico.

The American YMCA's first association with the military began during the American Civil War when the U.S. Christian Commission, a branch of the YMCA, provided reading material along with other necessities to federal soldiers and sailors. In 1864 the Reverend J. C. Thomas developed for the commission a sophisticated portable loan library program based on the model of the American Seamen's Friend Society.² Thomas created two hundred fifteen 125-volume libraries and seventy 75-volume libraries out of a select list of 1,500 titles from a variety of publishers.³ These were loaned to various units on all theaters of the war and contained a wide variety of subjects including history, biography, poetry, fiction, science, and religion. After the war Thomas's libraries were placed in various military posts and naval vessels. The YMCA responded to the literary needs of American military personnel once again during the Spanish-American War in 1898. Following the Civil War model, the YMCA sent 528 volunteers, known as secretaries, to military installations in the United States, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines over the course of eight months at a cost of \$130,000.⁴ Secretaries also visited

naval vessels and hospitals. A total of 207 YMCA tents were established in 64 camps. Unfortunately, the association's Spanish-American War effort is not well documented. After the war, the War and Navy Departments asked the YMCA to establish a permanent relationship with them. This involved the construction of permanent facilities on various military bases. The first of these, built in 1902, was a nine-story structure at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. By 1914 twenty-two such buildings existed on army bases and nine on Navy facilities.⁵ Also at this time the YMCA operated 180 traveling libraries for the military.⁶

By 1916, when this story begins, Mexico had been embroiled in a civil war for six years. In response to the war, American regular army troops had been stationed on the border since 1911. In October 1915 a crisis developed when President Woodrow Wilson gave de facto recognition to Venustiano Carranza as president of Mexico. A chief rival of Carranza was another revolutionary, General Francisco "Pancho" Villa. Wilson had courted Villa in the past as a possible presidential contender, and this loss of face caused Villa to mount reprisal raids against American citizens beginning in March 1916. Several cross-border raids occurred. In May 1916 Wilson ordered the National Guard of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to the border. Then in June 1916 he ordered the National Guard activated nationwide. These troops were sent to supplement the regular army units already there. The National Guard occupied about one hundred strategic sites along 1,500 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border.⁷ At its height the operation involved some 200,000 troops.

The guardsmen sent to the border were from all manner of class and occupations. There were students from ivy league colleges, farmers, factory workers, and businessmen. They belonged to units that had been federalized by the Dick Act of 1903. This act stipulated that the guard would be brought up to federal military standards. By 1916 this was hardly the case. Many units were not much more than social clubs, and some of the weaponry and equipment predated the Spanish-American War.⁸ "Its deficiencies . . . were many and great," one officer noted.⁹ Many units had guns without spare parts as well as a lack of ammunition and supplies in general. One quarter of all the units were without armories.¹⁰ A Massachusetts guardsman called the National Guard "pitifully incompetent and unprepared, . . . a tragic joke."¹¹ Observing a South Dakota guard unit on maneuvers before being sent to the border, a reporter recalled that the guardsmen spent "The entire time in camp . . . to good times in which liquor formed no small part." This unit spent much of its time drilling for dress parades.¹²

The National Guard units arrived along the Mexican border in wool uniforms to a climate described as the "North Shore of Hell."¹³ The tents they lived in for up to eight months did not protect them from the high

altitude, alkaline dust, sandstorms, a hurricane, heavy rain, and 120° temperatures. These factors, along with the sheer boredom of occupation duty, were a great strain on these citizen soldiers. Like all previous conflicts, the military authorities had little concern for the recreational activities of the troops.¹⁴

In June 1916 the YMCA sent George A. Reeder, the secretary of the association's Army and Navy Department, to investigate conditions in which

the moral risks of the troops are greater than the Association has ever faced before. Under the monotony of camp life, in a most trying climate, the temptations to which thousands of young men away from home will be subjected are very great.¹⁵

He considered reading materials "one of the most potent forces for preventing homesickness and discontent."¹⁶ Reeder cited one example of the need for library services when he encountered an outpost guarding the Southern Pacific railroad line. The only reading material available to the unit was one almanac.¹⁷ An Indiana guardsman also commented on the lack of good reading material when he wrote, "Wish those papers you sent would come. Have read every bit of printed matter around this place including a magazine called the *AU Story Weekly*. A most blood-thirsty affair."¹⁸

The YMCA had been with the regulars on the border in a limited capacity since 1911. With the expanding military presence the YMCA's activities expanded as well. There were immediate plans to establish twenty-five centers at camps of brigade or regimental strength.¹⁹ The centers were housed in wooden frame buildings erected for the purpose. Besides recreational equipment, the buildings housed a library, a phonograph, and a movie projector. By 10 August 1916, thirty-six buildings had been completed and equipped in eighteen camps with 130 secretaries acting in various capacities. By the end of the operation, forty-two buildings, six tents, and two mobile truck units housed YMCA activities and served some 8,000,000 patrons.²⁰ More than 300 secretaries, clergy, and businessmen participated over the eight months of occupation.

The YMCA's national headquarters in New York sent out various appeals through newspaper releases, state YMCA campaigns, brochures, and a newspaper entitled *Border Work*. Books, magazines, and films were procured through various drives. Publishers regularly donated copies of numerous popular magazines such as *Collier's*, *Leslie's*, *Harper's Monthly*, and *Railroad Man's Magazine*.²¹ Corporations donated documentary films. For example, the troops viewed films such as *The Family Jar* from the

J. J. Heinz Company, *Si Smith's Conviction* from the General Electric Company, *Seeing New York with John Dough* from the Fleischmann Company, and *Farming with Dynamite* from the Du Pont Powder Company.²² Other noncorporate films were also shown. Because of licensing conflicts, however, the YMCA could not show feature films, despite the fact that local theaters were off limits to the troops.

The YMCA received an initial grant from the Rockefeller Foundation of \$15,000. This grant was intended specifically for the development of a library program for the troops along the Mexican border. The YMCA commissioned librarians from the New York State Library, led by Forrest B. Spaulding, with the selection, purchase, and packaging of some 4,650 volumes.²³ A second collection was also gathered by Spaulding numbering 3,200 books.²⁴

The books Spaulding chose included material on Mexico, Texas, the West, and Southwest and concerned the history, travel, flora, and fauna of these areas. Also included were a number of fiction titles, poetry, technical manuals, and books on the war in Europe.²⁵ Spaulding described the books he collected as "not a 'highbrow' collection . . . but I'll guarantee that the men will like every book in it so well they'll be worn out in six months."²⁶ At the request of the War Department, the YMCA also included books dealing with the moral and health issues of prostitution.²⁷ Initially the association supplied 40 libraries of 100 books each to larger units and 25 libraries of 50 books each to smaller outposts. Several states and communities donated material to the YMCA to assist their own troops in the field. For example, the Texas, Vermont, and Iowa library commissions sent libraries for troops from their respective states. Examples of local efforts were those of the Rochester New York Public Library, the Minneapolis Free Public Library, and the City Library Association of Springfield, Massachusetts, which donated libraries for use by troops from those cities. The Red Cross also contributed books to the YMCA.²⁸

By March 1917 the National Guard had been sent home; world events required their presence elsewhere. The YMCA reduced its services accordingly. At this point, some \$350,000 had been spent. A large percentage of this had come from grants by such organizations as the Rockefeller Foundation which contributed over \$50,000.²⁹ Fifty-nine libraries of 100 volumes, twenty-five libraries of 50 volumes, and seventy tons of magazines had circulated among the troops. The YMCA utilized twenty-nine movie projectors and sixty phonographs during the operation. Three hundred and fifteen secretaries had worked in the area, traveling by train, truck, or motorcycle to deliver reading material to troops as far away as 150 miles from the nearest base.³⁰

Evidence indicates that the guardsmen were appreciative of the YMCA activities. One guardsman wrote, "The work of the YMCA among the military circles is of great benefit to the soldiers. We were all delighted with the recreation hall which was maintained at our camp."³¹ He continued, "The Success of this enterprise was undoubted, and the camaraderie between the men in charge [secretaries] and the soldiers was amazing. . . . Each night, the YMCA shack was crowded to overflowing."³² Elsewhere a brigade of Oklahoma, Tennessee, and South Dakota guardsmen saw the impending arrival of the YMCA hut as "something which the brigade has been in need of for a long time. It will provide a place to spend leisure hours in recreation of a wholesome sort."³³ One feature the brigade looked forward to was the library.³⁴

The soldiers were not the only ones who were supportive of the YMCA's activities. Raymond B. Fosdick of the War Department wrote in 8 August 1916, after visiting the border operations,

I came to the conclusion, after a thorough inspection of the camps, that the YMCA is the best organized thing on the whole frontier. The buildings are crowded night and day, in fact they are the club houses of the regiments and are used as such continually.

He also commented on the universal approval of the YMCA by the officer corps.

I came back in a most enthusiastic frame of mind about the work you are doing and its almost infinite possibilities, and I cannot resist telling you what a profound influence it is having on the thousands of men crowded along the Border.³⁵

Fosdick's comments were echoed by the secretary of war.

From every observer I heard commendation of the most enthusiastic sort for the work which the YMCA is doing there, and I want not only to express officially my appreciation of this valuable and patriotic service, but to offer any assistance I can extend to its enlargement and maintenance.³⁶

Spaulding noted, during several inspection trips to YMCA facilities, that the, "only source of complaint was that all the books were always out."³⁷ William Orr of the YMCA described this program in a speech at the 1917 ALA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The border work was

also briefly mentioned by others at the conference. Beyond these references and two short articles, the 1916 border activity of the YMCA seems to have received little attention in the ALA literature of the period.³⁸ However, it is clear that the ALA studied the program and learned from it. In April 1917 the ALA president Walter L. Brown appointed a committee to study the numerous suggestions concerning the role the ALA should play in assisting the war effort. This Committee on Mobilization and War Service Plans was the forerunner of the War Service Committee which managed the ALA's World War I program. Several letters indicate a correspondence between the ALA and the YMCA. Frederick Warren Jenkins of the Russell Sage Foundation Library, for example, responded to a letter from Herbert Putnam, the Librarian of Congress and head of the committee. Jenkins had been in communication with George Reeder and noted the YMCA's "splendid work in the camps on the border."³⁹ A memorandum from the Bureau of Railway Economics also noted the YMCA's border work and mentioned the current library programs for the British and German military.⁴⁰

The most interesting, however, was a three-way correspondence between George Reeder, Walter L. Brown, and R. R. Bowker.⁴¹ In this discussion Bowker was clearly promoting the YMCA's border work and future relationships between the ALA and YMCA.⁴²

The YMCA, through Mr. Reeder, would be glad to have the cooperation of the American Library Association and of libraries in general, putting its administrative machinery at disposal for that purpose, providing duplication and confusion, especially in raising funds, is avoided. The YMCA wants to put the best up-to-date books, particularly fiction, into these libraries, but wants also other books (avoiding dead stuff and trash) and current and old periodicals. It would be [good] to have the help of library people in collecting books and through local cooperation where there are camps.⁴³

For his part, Putnam sent Reeder a six-page questionnaire which concerned both the border work and the YMCA's upcoming plans. His tone in this correspondence was cooperative.

We are aware that the supply of reading was a feature of the YMCA camps at the Mexican Border, and I understand that the work was under your charge there. Mr. Bowker reports that he has already had a word with you with reference to a similar project for the coming exigencies and that he understands that you are to have a similar relation with it. If this be the case, we should undoubtedly

feel that any efforts by our libraries should be auxiliary and contributory to the service which you propose.⁴⁴

Putnam then asked a series of detailed questions regarding fundraising and specific funding sources. He was particularly interested in the Rockefeller Foundation. Putnam also asked about the use of professional librarians in the book selection process, the YMCA's book selection policy, and its policies on gifts. Other questions concerned transportation methods and freight costs. Unfortunately, Reeder's first response has been lost; however, in a follow-up letter he responds to some of the questions addressed by Putnam. In this letter he notes the work of Forrest B. Spaulding and his selection of "several hundred titles of the books most read and highest rated by reviewers."⁴⁵ Reeder was adamant about proper book selection rather than relying on donated books, "which we would probably not desire to have circulated among the men."⁴⁶ Reeder enclosed a list of the books purchased for the border libraries.⁴⁷

Putnam in his initial contacts with Reeder acknowledged the precedent set by the YMCA and offered the ALA's services in a supportive role. However, after the aforementioned correspondence Putnam moved away from this position and was less enthusiastic about sharing the spotlight with the YMCA. The ALA at the time had been criticized for being an entrenched elitist bureaucracy content to exist for its own sake.⁴⁸ Some in the ALA, however, wanted the association to take a leadership role in the areas of popular education, citizenship, and the teaching of social responsibility. An example of this is a letter to Putnam by Alice S. Tyler, director of the Library School at Western Reserve University, dated 25 May 1917.

My feeling is that at this particular period in our national experience, the claim of the American Public Library as an educational factor in the Democracy is to be tested as never before. No other nation has attempted to develop the free public library as a means of popular education as has been done in the United States; can we now through our national organization, the American Library Association, express in practical terms to the Federal Government our readiness and ability to measure up to the claim we have made?⁴⁹

At the Louisville Conference Putnam clearly was distancing the ALA from the YMCA. In his report on the preliminary activities of the Committee on Mobilization and War Service Plans, Putnam cited the YMCA Border library program as a "very imperfect measure for our troops on the border."⁵⁰ In doing so he also directly criticized some of the same

people that would soon be responsible for the development of the ALA's library program, e.g., Forrest B. Spaulding and Benjamin Adams. Benjamin Adams at the time was helping to develop the YMCA's library efforts for the training camps, and he was Forrest B. Spaulding's immediate superior at The New York Public Library. Both of these men would serve on the subcommittee of the War Service Committee responsible for the selection of books that would go into the ALA's training camp libraries. Benjamin Adams was the chair of the subcommittee. Only a month earlier, on 28 May 1917, Putnam had written to Raymond B. Fosdick, the chair of the War Department's Commission on Training Camp Activities, that the YMCA had undertaken their library program "with success at the Border."⁵¹

Specific documentation that details the reason why Fosdick finally chose the ALA over the YMCA has not been located in any of the relevant archives.⁵² However, some of the reasons can be surmised. It is clear that up to the spring of 1917, the War Department was satisfied with the YMCA's handling of the army's recreational needs. Yet three events changed this perception. The first was Putnam's aggressive promotion of the ALA's professional capabilities to government officials.⁵³ This has been given a thorough discussion in Arthur P. Young's *Books for Sammies*. The second was the hesitancy of the YMCA to commit to a course of action. William Orr, the YMCA's representative at the ALA's Louisville Conference in June 1917, noted that the YMCA's plans were still unclear. He requested more time to study the situation and undertake experimental programs.⁵⁴ The third reason was the YMCA's refusal to carry out its activities with a nonsectarian orientation.⁵⁵ What is clear is that the leadership of the ALA was ready and eager to get underway. This did not end the YMCA's library services to the military, however. The YMCA provided both ALA libraries and their own libraries in their huts throughout World War I.

The American Library Association examined the library programs provided for the British military by the British YMCA and other organizations, as well as the library program for the German army.⁵⁶ The study of these programs helped the American Library Association create an extensive library program for the American military and civilian organizations engaged in war work during and after World War I. The ALA also studied the activities of the American YMCA on the Mexican border, the principle American example for this sort of work, and drew from them. According to YMCA historians William Howard Taft and Frederick Harris,

It is sufficient to note here that without the work on the Mexican Border the American fighting man would have perhaps missed

some of the best features of the welfare equipment that greeted him on his arrival at the training camps in 1917 and 1918.³⁷

This short-lived activity on the Mexican border was clearly a training ground for the relationship between the U.S. military and civilian benevolent associations, and for the actions taken by these associations, publishers, and libraries in their efforts, beginning in 1917, for the U.S. military forces preparing for the war in Europe.

Notes

1. Arthur P. Young, *Books for Sammies* (Pittsburgh: Beta Phi Mu, 1981), 11; Mark Gretchen, "World War I Library Service in Texas Military Training Camps," *Texas Libraries* 48 (1987): 73–78.

2. David Kaser, *Books and Libraries in Camp and Battle: The Civil War Experience* (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1984); David M. Hovde, "The U.S. Christian Commission's Library and Literacy Programs for the Union Military Forces in the Civil War," *Libraries & Culture* 24 (Summer 1989): 295–316; David M. Hovde, "Sea Colportage: The Loan Library System of The American Seamen's Friend Society, 1859–1967," *Libraries & Culture* 29 (Fall 1994): 389–414.

3. Hovde, "The U.S. Christian Commission's Library and Literacy Programs for the Union Military Forces in the Civil War," 295–316.

4. William Howard Taft and Frederick Harris, *Service with Fighting Men* (New York: Association Press, 1924), 52–53. The term secretary was used for a YMCA field worker. National War Work Council, *Summary of World War Work of the American YMCA* (New York: The International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1920), 3.

5. C. Howard Hopkins, *History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America* (New York: Association Press, 1951), 455; Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 207.

6. Hopkins, *History of the Y.M.C.A. in North America*, 455.

7. Glenn Justice, *Revolution on the Rio Grande* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso, 1992); Don M. Coerver and Linda B. Hall, *Texas and the Mexican Revolution* (San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1984); Frank N. Samponaro and Paul J. Vanderwood, *War Scare on the Rio Grande: Robert Runyon's Photographs of the Border Conflict, 1913–1916* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1992).

8. Samponaro and Vanderwood, *War Scare on the Rio Grande: Robert Runyon's Photographs of the Border Conflict, 1913–1916*, 107.

9. Hugh Lenox Scott, *Some Memories of a Soldier* (New York: The Century Company, 1928), 122.

10. Mary Murphy Gillette, "A Small War in a Beer-Drinking Country: The South Dakota National Guard on the Mexican Border," *South Dakota History* 16 (Spring 1986): 37.

11. Roger Batchelder, *Watching and Waiting on the Border* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1917), viii, 2.

12. Gillette, "A Small War in a Beer-Drinking Country: The South Dakota National Guard on the Mexican Border," 39.

13. Batchelder, *Watching and Waiting on the Border*, 122.

14. Hovde, "The U.S. Christian Commission's Library and Literacy Programs for the Union Military Forces in the Civil War," 297–298.

15. *Y.M.C.A. at Work Among Troops on the Mexican Border*. Miscellaneous Press Material, 1916, Box AS39. YMCA of the USA Archives. University of Minnesota Libraries, St. Paul, MN.

16. "YMCA Library Work on the Border," *Library Journal* 42 (June 1917): 445–446.

17. *For Association Men—August 1916*. Miscellaneous Press Material, 1916, Box AS39. YMCA of the USA Archives. University of Minnesota Libraries, St. Paul, MN.

18. W. H. Searight to Janet Shultz, 27 November 1916, Private Collection of Kenneth S. Coles. Logansport, Indiana.

19. *Y.M.C.A. at Work Among Troops on the Mexican Border*.

20. Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 208–209. The two Ford trucks, known as "Traveling YMCA's," were manned by two secretaries. Each was equipped with reading material, games, motion picture equipment, and a dynamo to run the equipment. Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 208.

21. "Publishers Give Magazines," *Border Work* 2 (1 September 1916): 2.

22. *Released for Publication in Morning Papers October 9th*. Miscellaneous Press Material, 1916, Box AS39. YMCA of the USA Archives. University of Minnesota Libraries, St. Paul, MN.

23. Forrest B. Spaulding was the superintendent of the Traveling Library Department of the New York Public Library from August 1916 to July 1917. He would later put his experience, gained from this work and the YMCA border libraries, to work for ALA's Library War Service. During this period he worked as the librarian at Fort Dodge, Iowa, one of the Army training camps served by ALA, and later was in charge of the Merchant Marine Department. The American Merchant Marine Library Association grew out of the latter. The New York Public Library through its Traveling Library Department sought to extend its services to numerous groups who had no direct access to traditional library services. The service also bolstered the circulating collections of small outlying branch libraries and other institutions. The traveling libraries, known as "stations," ranged in size, subject, and language depending on the particular situation. In 1915, for example, this service circulated about one million volumes in over 952 locations. These locations included schools, churches, YMCA clubs, department stores, asylums, factories, community libraries, and Columbia University. There was also a ten-volume library service for individual homes. Phyllis Dain, *The New York Public Library* (New York: New York Public Library, 1972), 297; George L. Rives, "Report of the Director," *Bulletin of the New York Public Library* 20 (March 1916): 231–232. Further information on the American Merchant Marine Library Association can be found in David M. Hovde, "The American Merchant Marine Library Association: The Public Library of the High Seas," *Public Libraries* 33 (July–August 1994): 205–210.

24. "YMCA Library Work on the Border," 445–446.

25. "Books in All Buildings," *Border Work* 2 (1 September 1916): 4; *Sent to a Selected List of Newspapers in Large Cities* (8 September 1916). Miscellaneous Press Material, 1916, Box AS39. YMCA of the USA Archives. University of Minnesota Libraries, St. Paul, MN.; "YMCA Library Work on the Border," 445–446.

26. "Books for the Boys on the Border," *Library Journal* 41 (September 1916): 657–658.

27. Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 112–114. Both the Secretary of War, Newton D. Baker, and his assistant, Raymond B. Fosdick, were greatly concerned about the effects of saloons and brothels on the health and well-being

of the troops. They recognized libraries as one of a number of alternatives to these distractions as a means of keeping men healthy and focused on their duty. In response the YMCA offered their facilities as a counter to the, "Saloons, gambling halls, and worse places . . . housed in shacks or adobe houses, striving for the soldiers' money and willing to ruin them morally and physically." This was also a primary concern of Baker and Fosdick one year later. For example, the ALA noted that the soldiers, "need diversion and wholesome recreation. They need books to offset tendencies to roam away from camp, to keep doubtful company, to brood and to long for home." *Fathers-Mothers Citizens everywhere Attention* (New York: International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association, n.d.), 4, YMCA of the USA Archives, University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, Minn.; *Soldiers, Sailors and Books* (Washington, DC: War Service of the American Library Association, 1918), 3; Young, *Books for Sam-mies*, 13–14.

28. "Books for the Boys on the Border," 657–658; Julia A. Robinson to Herbert Putnam, 26 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 35; *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.; "Books Sent to Texas Regiments on the Border," *Texas Library* 2 (April 1917): 109; Miller C. Wellman to Herbert Putnam, 31 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 45. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.; Bureau of Railroad Economics to the Committee on Mobilization and War Service Plans, "American Library Association Memorandum Regarding Books and Magazines for the Soldiers of the U.S.A.," May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 74–75. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.; "YMCA Library Work on the Border," 445–446.

29. *Sent to All Morning and Evening N.Y. Dailies, July 26th*. Miscellaneous Press Materials, 1916, Box AS39. YMCA of the USA Archives. University of Minnesota Libraries, St. Paul, MN.

30. "Figures Tell the Story," *Border Work* 9 (15 December 1916): 1.

31. Batchelder, *Watching and Waiting on the Border*, 95.

32. *Ibid.*, 95, 96.

33. "Third Brigade Will Soon Have Y.M.C.A." *The Oklasodak* 1 (10 January 1917): 1.

34. "Y.M.C.A. Workers Arrive in San Benito," *The Oklasodak* 1 (17 January 1917): 2.

35. Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 209.

36. *Fathers-Mothers Citizens everywhere Attention*, 6.

37. "Y.M.C.A. Library Work on the Border," 445–446.

38. William Orr, "Cooperation in War Works Between the Young Men's Christian Association and the American Library Association," *Bulletin of the American Library Association* 11 (May 1917): 111–114; Herbert Putnam et al., "Our Libraries and the War: Report of Preliminary War Library Committee," *Bulletin of the American Library Association* 11 (July 1917): 315–317; "Books for the Boys on the Border," 657–658; "YMCA Library Work on the Border," 445–446.

39. Frederick Warren Jenkins to Herbert Putnam, 23 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 29. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, IL.

40. Bureau of Railroad Economics to the Committee on Mobilization and War Service Plans, "American Library Association Memorandum Regarding Books and Magazines for the Soldiers of the U.S.A.," May 1917, 74-75.

41. R. R. Bowker was also a member of the Committee on Mobilization and the founder of R. R. Bowker, a major publisher of library reference materials.

42. R. R. Bowker to Walter L. Brown, 3 May 1917, 22.

43. R. R. Bowker to Walter L. Brown, 3 May 1917. *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 22. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, Ill.

44. Herbert Putnam to George Reeder, 11 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 87-92. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, Ill.

45. George A. Reeder to Herbert Putnam, 19 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 28. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, Ill.

46. George A. Reeder to Herbert Putnam, 19 May 1917, 28.

47. The list of books purchased by the YMCA for the border libraries mentioned by George A. Reeder in his letter to Herbert Putnam has not been found in either the ALA Archives or the YMCA of the USA Archives.

48. Young, *Book for Sammies*, 10.

49. Alice S. Tyler to Herbert Putnam, 25 May 1917, *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence*, Vol. 1, 31-33. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee, 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, Ill.

50. Herbert Putnam et al., "Our Libraries and the War: Report of Preliminary War Library Committee," 315.

51. Herbert Putnam to Raymond B. Fosdick, 28 May 1917. *American Library Association-Library War Service-Correspondence 1917*, Vol. 1, 102-103. *Early Suggestions to the War Service Committee 1917*, Record Series 89/1/5. University of Illinois Archives, Urbana, Ill.

52. For this research the YMCA of the USA Archives, the ALA Archives, and the National Archives were examined. Requests for specific files were made to The New York Public Library and the Rockefeller Archives Center. The archives of the New York YMCA are currently not available to researchers. The lack of specific documents was confirmed by Arthur P. Young (personal communication, 9 November 1994).

53. Young, *Books for Sammies*, 10-13.

54. Ibid., 12; Orr, "Cooperation in War Work Between the Young Men's Christian Association and the American Library Association," 111-114.

55. Young, *Books for Sammies*, 14.

56. Theodore Wesley Koch, "Books in Camp, Trench and Hospital," *Library Journal* 42 (July 1917): 507-514; Theodore Wesley Koch, "Books in Camp, Trench and Hospital, Part II," *Library Journal* 42 (August 1917): 591-598; Theodore Wesley Koch, "More About Books in Camp, Trench and Hospital," *Library Journal* 42 (October 1917): 778-790; Herbert Putnam et al., "Our Libraries and the War: Report of Preliminary War Library Committee," 315-317; "German Libraries in War Time," *Library Journal* 40 (July 1915): 482-83; J. H. Friedel, "The Travelling Library in the European War," *Library Journal* 41 (September 1916): 662-64.

57. Taft and Harris, *Service with Fighting Men*, 58.